Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 CAIRO 01962 131827Z

14
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
---------- 076919
R 131440Z FEB 76
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 82

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 1962

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OREP (STEVENSON, ADLAI)
SUBJECT: CODEL STEVENSON: MEETING WITH HEYKAL

REF CAIRO 1942

1. AS MENTIONED REFTEL, CODEL HAD PRIVATE MEETING WITH MUHAMMAD HASANAIN HEYKAL ON FEBRUARY QW AT HEYKAL'S GIZA APARTMENT. CODEL KINDLY PASSED ON FOLLOWING ACCOUNT OF CONVERSATION TO US. IT SHOULD BE PROTECTED CAREFULLY AS WE DID NOT SPECIFICALLY SEEK AGREEMENT TO RECORD IT, ALTHOUGH CODEL CLEARALY AWARE THAT WE ARE INTERESTED IN ALL SUCH CONTACTS.

2. HEYKAL RECOUNTED FOR CODEL HIS DISENCHANTMENT WITH FIRST SINAI DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT, CLAIMING HE DECIDED HE COULD NOT CONTINUE AT AL-AHRAM AS A RESULT. HE NEVERTHELESS MAINTAINED FRIENDSHIP WITH SADAT. AFTER SECOND SINAI DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT, HE VOWED NOT TO ASSOCIATE OR SPEAK TO SADAT AS HE FULLY DISAGREES WITH THIS MOVE. FURTHER HE BELIEVES IT HARMS EGYPT. HEYKAL TOLD CODEL THAT SADAT'S POLICY BOUND TO FAIL BECAUSE UNITED STATES CANNOT FILL GAP WHICH HAS RESULTED FROM GOE BREAK WITH SOVIET UNION. BALANCE OF POWER HAS BEEN SHIFTED IRREVOCABLY IN FAVOR ISRAEL; EGYPT CAN NEVER RECOVER.

3. HEYKAL DESCRIBED SERIOUS INTERNAL ECONOMIC SITUATION IN WHICH A VERY FEW BENEGIT FROM SADAT'S ECONOMIC POLICIES. HEYKAL BELIEVES THAT POTENTIAL EXISTS FOR "REVOLUTION"
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 CAIRO 01962 131827Z

IF SITUATION CONTINUES AS AT PRESENT.

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006

4. HEYKAL TOLD CODEL THAT SADAT SHOULD HAVE TRIED FOR THE
OVERALL SETTLEMENT WHILE THE ISRAELIS WERE WEAK IN 1973.
ISRAEL WILL ONLY BECOME STRONGER AND INTRANSIGENT AS TIME
PASSES. HEYKAL LAMENTED, ACCORDING TO CODEL, THAT, MOST
IMPORTANTLY, SADAT'S POLICIES HAVE MEANT THE END OF EGYPTIAN
LEADERSHIP IN AFRICA AND THE ARAB WORLD. AFRICA AND THE
ARAB WORLD NEED A CENTER, ACCORDING TO HEYKAL, AND
THAT CENTER IS NATURALLY EGYPT. EGYPT CANNOT IGNORE THIS.

5. HEYKAL SAID THAT AMERICAN IS NOT TOO POPULAR IN EGYPT
AND REGALED CODEL WITH FIGURES OF MASSIVES SUMS
SPENT DURING NIXON VISIT TO ASSURE THAT APPROPRIATE CROWDS
WERE TURNED OUT.

6. COMMENT. HEYKAL CLEARLY SEIZED THE OCCASION
OF AN AMERICAN SENATOR SEEKING HIM OUT TO BE AT HIS
CRITICAL BEST. HE STILL SMARTS FROM HAVING BEEN LARGELY
IGNORED BY HIGH LEVEL AMERICAN OFFICIALS DURING HIS
VISIT TO THE US LAST FALL. ACCOUNT, AS GIVEN TO US, ECHOES
WHAT WE HEAR HEYKAL IS TELLING VISITING JORNALISTS.
MUCH OF WHAT HE SAID, OF COURSE, IS SHEER HEYKALIAN
DELUSION. HE DID NOT RESIGN FROM AHRAM; HE WAS FIRED.
WHILE SOME EGYPTIAN LEFTIST INTELLECTUALS ARE CRITICAL OF
US, AMERICA STILL ENJOYS THE EXTRAORDINARY POPULARITY IN
EGYPT. POPULAR TURNOUT DURING NIXON VISIST MAY HAVE BEEN
CATALYZED BY GOE, YET ANYONE WHO WAS THERE CAN ALSO TESTIFY
TO GENUINE WARMTH OF RECEPTION. HEYKAL'S RATIONALE FOR
WHY SADAT'S FOREIGN POLICY IS HURTING EGYPT REFLECTS HIS
CONVICTION THAT EGYPT CANNOT GO IT ALONE IN THE MIDDLE EAST.
UNLESS EGYPT IS RECOGNIZED LEADER OF ARAB AND AFRICAN WORLDS,
ITS POLICY IS NOT A SUCCESS. THIS IS HOLD OVER FROM NASSER
VIEW AND IS SHARED BY MOST EGYPTIANS. CURRENT EGYPTIAN
ISOLATION AFTER SINAI II RANKLES EQUALLY WITH SADAT. THAT
DOMESTIC ECONOMIC DISTRESS, IF UNRELIEVED, HOLDS POTENTIAL FOR
REVOLUTIONARY THREAT IS UNDISPUTED, THOUGH HEYKAL MISREPRESENTS
REASONS
FOR EGYPT'S ECONOMIC PLIGHT.

7. HEYKAL CLEARLY MADE QUITE AN IMPRESSION. CODEL
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 CAIRO 01962 131827Z

TOLD CONTROL OFFICER HE WAS MOST ARTICULATE AND
IMPRESSIVE EGYPTIAN BUSINESSMAN THEY MET. CONTROL
OFFICER SOUGHT PLACE HEYKAL'S COMMENTS IN PERSPECTIVE,
AND WE CAN ONLY HOPE THAT CODEL WAS NOT ENTIRELY SWAYED
BY DISCOURSE IT RECEIVED.
 EILTS

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL SETTLEMENT, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 13 FEB 1976
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: RowellE0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976CAIRO01962
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760057-0014
From: CAIRO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760252/aaaabtie.tel
Line Count: 113
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 76 CAIRO 1942
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: RowellE0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 07 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <07 JUN 2004 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <12 OCT 2004 by RowellE0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CODEL STEVENSON: MEETING WITH HEYKAL
TAGS: OREP, XF, (STEVENSON, ADLAI), (HEYKAL, MUHAMMAD HASANAIN)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006